

PINE AND MANISTEE RIVERS CANOE TRIP

Pine River 58 Miles

Manistee River 50 Miles (Approx.)

Put canoe trip in the Pine River at Skookum Bridge located northeast of Luther, Michigan, about three miles. Upstream of this bridge to Walker's Bridge is the Ne-bo-shone property. You are not permitted to land on this property, but you can pass through on the river. At Skookum Bridge is a canoe campsite complete with latrines, water, tables and fireplaces. Between Skookum Bridge and the Wexford County line are six such campsites, all on the right side of the river. The river is narrow, winding, with an average depth of two to three feet with many deep pools. The water is very swift with many rapids. There are occasional log jams and wing dams, all of which are passable. The banks are well wooded and high with many good undeveloped campsites, and springs suitable for drinking water. The forest is mixed pines and hardwoods, and the soil is sand and clay, with many of the banks deeply undercut.

About three hours down from Skookum Bridge is a frame for a steel bridge and a small log bridge. Two hours downstream from these bridges are two more steel bridges, the second of which is located in Wexford County. At this point you are approximately thirty miles downstream of Skookum Bridge.

From this point the river becomes a series of rapids with intermittent pools. You will want to rest often and climb some of the high clay rollaways to view the river. An hour and a half from the Wexford County line just beyond a low steel bridge is a beautiful campsite complete with a cooler under the pump. On the other side of this campsite is a new steel bridge where a new highway is being constructed.

Downstream of this campsite about five miles the river gradually shallows out and you will come to a log jam. To pass without making a portage keep to the left channel and take canoes around the jam through the small channel (See Map). The water continues to shallow out, and the river will presently slow into a small pond where a power dam is located. The portage is on the left side of the dam and is about three hundred feet long. Three or four miles downstream is a low steel bridge and just beyond is a large steel bridge over which passes highway M. 55. Tippy Lake is then entered. Keep to the left shore and go to Tippy Dam three miles away on the upper end of the lake. A campsite, spring and portage are on the right side of the dam. The portage is four-hundred yards long. This is a good place to rest for a day and secure supplies at Camp Mana-Pine.

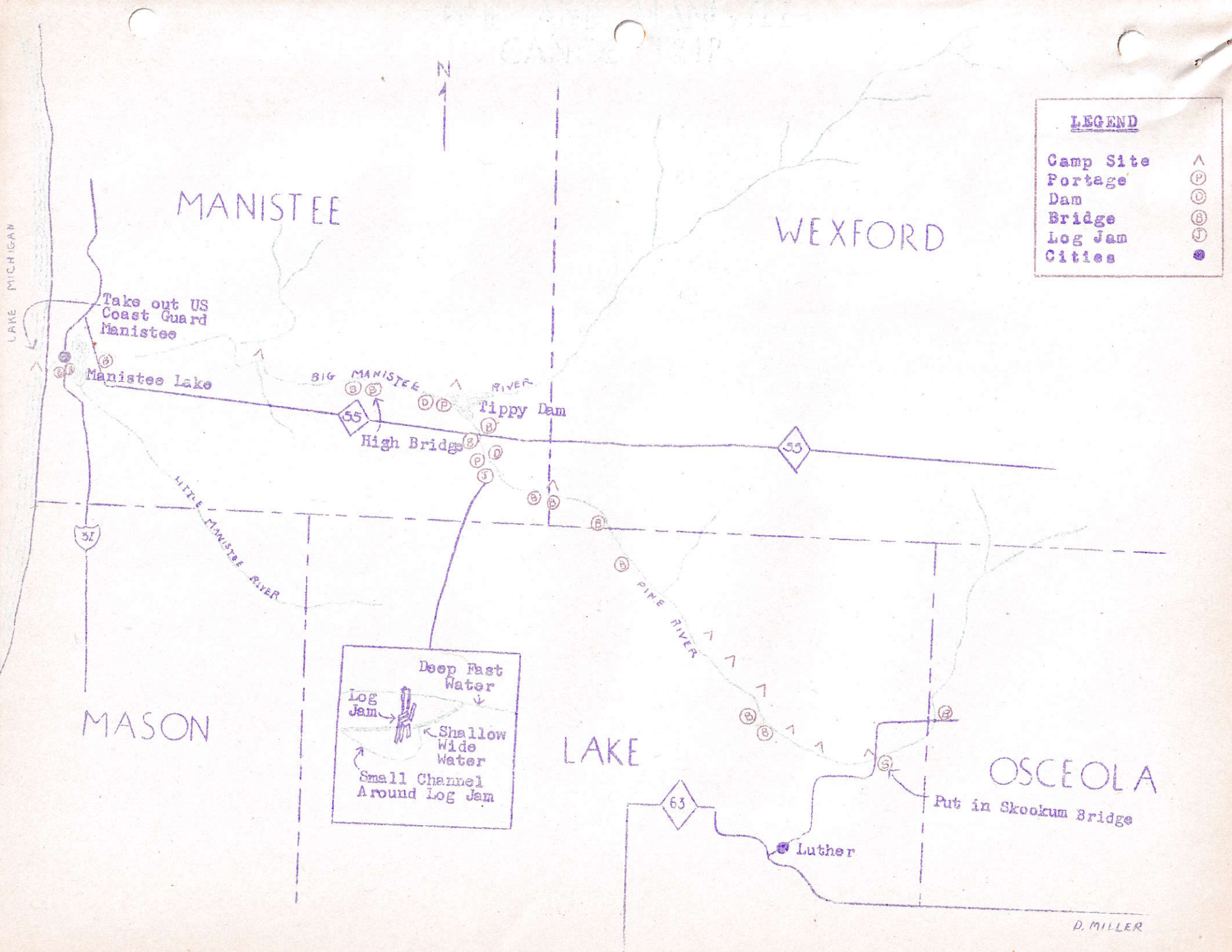
Inquire at the dam when the water is going to be released (usually released at 7:00 A.M.) as high water will be needed on the Manistee River between here and High Bridge. The river is wide, fast, and winding between low banks with a few roll-aways. There are many logs, stumps, and low islands. About a hour and a half from Tippy Dam is High Bridge, and around a bend is a low steel bridge. The river here is slow and deep, with many bends. Below High Bridge several miles, Pine Creek enters on the left. There is a good campsite on the opposite bank.

From this point on the banks are low and thickly overgrown with few good places to camp. There is almost no drinking water available.

The first sign of Manistee is Highway Bridge M. 55. Keep to the right channel until Manistee Lake is entered. Paddle across the lake toward the city and pass under the Manistee and Northeastern R. R. Bridge, U. S. 31 Bridge, and one other steel bridge. Follow channel out to U. S. Coast Guard Station on Lake Michigan. Pull out canoes on ramp and campsite is located in grove of trees adjacent to last building. Available are tables, stoves, water, lodge, beach, bathhouse (showers, latrine, etc.), all of which are public.

Trip can be made in four days of easy paddling.

DICK MILLER



LEGEND

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| Camp Site | △ |
| Portage | ⊙ |
| Dam | ⊕ |
| Bridge | ⊗ |
| Log Jam | ⊙ |
| Cities | ● |

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